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Office of
Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

August 16 - August 23, 1990

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USDA NAMES CARIBBEAN BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today nominated 20 agriculture and business leaders to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agribusiness Promotion Council. The council is a private sector advisory committee, established in 1982 to assist USDA in implementing the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

The council's mission is to make recommendations on policies and programs which will enhance agricultural and agribusiness development in the beneficiary countries.

Yeutter said, "Accelerated economic growth in the Western Hemisphere, particularly the Caribbean Basin and all of Latin America, is of major importance to the United States. The council plays a substantial role in supporting our nation's policy toward the region."

Of the nominees, William Armellini, vice president, Armellini Express Lines, Inc.; Joseph Borgatti, president, J.J. Borgatti Associates; William Dewey, managing director, Latin American Debt Management Associates; Thomas O'Ban, former manager of frozen foods, Safeway Stores, Inc.; Jerry Ravenell, president, Low Country International, Inc.; and Ronald Gollehon, president, Agricultural Cooperative Development International, have served on the Council previously.

New nominees are: Pat Adrian, co-owner, Adrian Land and Cattle Company; Judy Black, vice president, International Council of Shopping Centers; W. Garrett Boyd, manager, American Express Travel; Walter W. Branford, president and CEO, Double Eagle Shipping Company; William Eacho, president and CEO, Atlantic Food Services, Inc.; Robert Moore, president, International Banana Association; George Pillsbury, director, Pillsbury Company; Douglas Linder, division head, Cargill, Inc.; Carol Scroggins, president, Consumer Voice, Inc.; Steve Sydness, owner, Sydness Consulting Services; Clark Willingham, president, Texas Beef Industry Council; Shirley Brinker, chairman, Brinker/ Orsetti Seed

Company; Fernando Gumucio, former chairman and CEO, Del Monte U.S.A., and Alan Kimbell, chairman of Board of Directors, Distribution Management Associates, Inc.

Laura Whitaker (202) 653-7589

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MICROBIOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET AUG. 27-29 IN DENVER

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9—The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods will meet Aug. 27-29 at the Westin Hotel, 1672 Lawrence St., Denver, Colo. Meetings are scheduled from 1:30 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 27 and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 28 and 29.

Dr. Lester M. Crawford, committee chairman and administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said the committee advises the secretaries of agriculture and health and human services on criteria for assessing the safety and wholesomeness of food, and for assessing the effectiveness of food manufacturing practices.

The agenda includes a meeting of the *Listeria monocytogenes* subcommittee Aug. 27, concurrent working sessions of the Meat and Poultry Working Group and the Seafood Working Group Aug. 28 and the morning of Aug. 29, and a full meeting of the committee on the afternoon of Aug. 29.

Crawford also announced the appointment of nine new committee members and the re-appointment of fifteen committee members.

The new members are: Dr. Charles Beard, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Athens, Ga.; Dr. Rodney Bowling, Monfort, Inc., Greeley, Colo.; Dr. John T. Fruin, Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Ga.; Dr. Robert Gravani, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; Dr. Stanley Green, FSIS, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Richard Lechowich, Illinois Institute of Technology, Summit-Argo, Ill.; Dr. Jung Sun Lee, University of Alaska, Kodiak, Ala.; Dr. Kenneth May, Food and Drug Industries, Wilkesboro, N.C.; and Dr. William Sperber, Pillsbury Company, Minneapolis, Minn.

The members re-appointed for a second term are: Dr. Catherine Adams, FSIS, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Douglas Archer, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Howard Bauman,

Consultant, St. Louis Park, Minn.; Dr. Frank Calia, University of Maryland Hospital, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Mitchell Cohen, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. David W. Dreesen, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.; Dr. Damien Gabis, Siliker Laboratories, Chicago Heights, Ill.; Spencer Garrett, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula, Miss.; Dr. James Jay, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.; Dr. John Kvenberg, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Ranzell Nickelson II, Applied Microbiological Services, Inc., San Antonio, Texas; Dr. Merle Pierson, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.; Dr. Martha Rhodes, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, Fla.; Dr. David Theno, Jr., Theno and Associates, Modesto, Calif.; and Dr. Bruce Tompkin, Swift-Eckrich, Oak Brook, Ill.

The meetings are open to the public on a space-available basis. Comments may be filed with the committee before or after the meeting and should be addressed to Catherine M. DeRoeever, Director, Executive Secretariat, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3175-S, Washington, D.C. 20250. Background materials are available from DeRoeever at (202) 447-9150.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

#

USDA PROPOSES CHANGING ASSESSMENT PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL PORK ORDER

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to amend the National Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order and its regulations to extend the deadline for remitting assessments by five days.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said that the pork order now requires meat packers, auction markets and commission firms to remit assessments they collect to the National Pork Board by the 10th day of the month following the month in which the assessed animals were purchased. Assessments remitted later are subject to late payment charges, Haley said. "The National Pork Board, proponent of the changes, believes that an amendment adding five more days to the deadline for remitting assessments would better fit the business operating practices of the industry," said Haley.

The second proposed amendment would establish a “marketing period” of any consecutive four-week period which could be used in lieu of the current period of one-calendar month.

The National Pork Board says this change would accommodate meat packers and others who conduct their business on four-week cycles rather than on monthly cycles, Haley said. The board would have to approve a firm’s four-week period, he said.

Established under the Pork Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1985, the pork order became effective Sept. 5, 1986. AMS monitors the program.

Assessments to fund the programs administered through the order began Nov. 1, 1986. The assessments are one quarter of one percent of the market value of all hogs sold in the U.S., and an equivalent amount on imported hogs, pork and pork products.

The proposals will appear as a proposed rule in the Aug. 13 Federal Register. Pork producers, importers and other interested parties may submit comments no later than Sept. 12, in duplicate, to the Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2624-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Further information is available from Ralph L. Tapp, chief of the Marketing Programs Branch, telephone (202) 382-1115.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 10, through midnight Thursday, Aug. 16.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988, 1989, and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80, 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Aug. 9, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price	82.08
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	13.27
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.15
Average U.S. location	0.35
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-15.77</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	66.31 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price	82.08
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-78.87</u>
	3.21
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.10</u>
	-0.89
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATIONS

WASHINGTON, August 9—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 105,664 metric tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn begins Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

#

FARMERS HOME, ADMINISTRATION ON AGING JOIN ON HOUSING PLANS FOR ELDERLY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10—The Farmers Home Administration and the Administration on Aging joined forces today in efforts to improve housing and related services for low- and moderate-income elderly rural residents.

Farmers Home is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Administration on Aging is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In a memorandum of understanding signed today by U.S. Commissioner on Aging Joyce T. Berry and FmHA Administrator La Verne Ausman, the two agencies agreed to promote “the well-being of older persons by providing a coordinated, integrated response to the housing and support service needs of older persons.”

Under its rural housing program, FmHA can make loans to finance construction and rehabilitation of housing, but it has no authority to finance services such as meal service or transportation. AoA, through its network of State and Area Agencies on Aging, can provide assistance in obtaining these needed services.

According to the agreement, the agencies' field offices will join in planning and training sessions, information sharing, and other activities to better serve the elderly population in rural areas.

National and field staff from both agencies will meet regularly to review progress under the agreement and to develop new joint initiatives and work to coordinate their efforts.

One specific focus of the interagency cooperation is congregate housing: FmHA finances the construction of apartment-style units and AoA sponsors nutrition and support services for older persons needing some assistance in daily living, but who do not need institutional care.

Sarah Lawrence (202) 447-4323

#

USDA RESTRICTS INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF TABLE EGGS FROM FIVE COMMERCIAL FLOCKS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that so far this year it has restricted the interstate movement of commercial table eggs from four flocks in southeastern Pennsylvania and one flock in Maryland's eastern shore because of evidence of *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) infection.

"We have restricted the interstate movement of eggs from these farms to protect the consumer," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "SE, a bacterial agent that can cause illness in animals and humans, is a growing problem for the egg industry and has emerged as a public health concern," Glosser said.

Outbreaks of SE infection in humans were traced to eggs from these five flocks. The restrictions were placed in accordance with regulations published Feb. 16 in the Federal Register to control the spread of SE in table-egg poultry flocks in the United States.

"The regulations, and the SE control program put into place by APHIS to implement the regulations, are designed to control SE on two fronts," Glosser said. Primary and multiplier breeding flocks that produce the table-egg layer chickens are tested and certified to be SE-free before they can be shipped interstate to supply egg-laying establishments. Tableegg laying flocks are tested when implicated in human SE outbreaks, and eggs and other articles associated with flocks that test

positive are restricted from interstate movement, Glosser explained.

“Using these two basic approaches, we can focus on those flocks where problems exist and reduce the chances of SE-contaminated eggs entering the marketplace,” Glosser said.

APHIS has received reports of 40 human SE outbreaks since the control program began. Sixteen have been traced to specific flocks, and tests for the SE organism in chickens and their environment have so far led to the restriction of eggs from the five sites. In the remaining 24 investigations, eggs were not implicated or the information available was not sufficient to implicate eggs or to permit a traceback of eggs to the flock of origin.

“Because the increase in human outbreaks seems up to now to be mainly limited to the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states, it may be that a small number of egg-laying poultry flocks in these areas are affected with what may be an invasive strain of SE that is getting into eggs,” Glosser said. “If these flocks can be located through tracebacks, the invasive strains can be controlled and eventually eliminated,” he said.

The most recent restrictions were the result of SE testing at farms in Maytown and Manheim, Pa., following cases of human illness in that state and in Connecticut. After over 100 people became ill from eating a dish with hollandaise sauce at a June 1 wedding in Bristol, Conn., environmental tests done at the farm producing the eggs, in Maytown, were positive. Birds on that farm are now undergoing serological and internal organ testing for confirmation of SE. In the meantime, all eggs and associated articles from the farm have been restricted from interstate movement. Birds on the Manheim farm were tested last week, and eggs were restricted after the farm was implicated in outbreaks from SE-contaminated foods at a Pennsylvania restaurant chain.

The common denominator in all of the human SE egg-related outbreaks is the consumption of improperly handled or undercooked eggs. Consumers are advised to remember that, although eggs are a wholesome and nutritious food, they should be handled as any other perishable food in the animal food chain. Cooking eggs thoroughly until both the yolk and white are firm will destroy any bacteria that may be contained in an egg. Eggs should be kept refrigerated to prevent the growth or increase of any contained bacteria. In recipes that call for raw or lightly cooked eggs, such as ice cream or hollandaise sauce, pasteurized eggs should be

substituted for raw eggs. Purchase only eggs that have been kept refrigerated and that are clean and unbroken.

Margaret Webb (301) 436-7799

#

COMPUTER MODEL PROBES WEATHER PATTERNS

WASHINGTON—C. W. Richardson can't promise you that it won't rain on your Labor Day picnic. But he and his Weather Generator can give you a better idea of the likelihood of a party-dampening downpour. Richardson, a U.S. Department of Agriculture agricultural engineer, says the Weather Generator computer model has become "reasonably accurate" in considering past weather patterns on which to base a forecast.

He said the model can calculate "a sequence of weather that's as likely to occur as any other sequence at a given site."

WGEN, the model's abbreviated name, "will give you daily rainfall, temperature and solar radiation for as many years ahead as you want," said Richardson of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "We've done lots of 50-year runs. You can generate 50 years' data on a personal computer in five minutes or so."

WGEN is applied to problems more weighty than forecasts for family picnics. Richardson said it's often used to develop weather information to be incorporated into other computer models—for example, the research agency's EPIC (Erosion Productivity Impact Calculator) system that predicts the amount of erosion and runoff on agricultural lands over many years' time.

"We're not trying to simulate what the weather will do, just generate statistical examples of what the weather might do," he said. "The idea is to generate weather information for use in other models or in a farmer's decision-making process. This allows for better management decisions."

Richardson and computer technician Dee A. Wright developed WGEN in the early 1980's at the Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory operated by ARS at Temple, Texas. Richardson, who is the lab director, said he has had approximately 100 requests from a variety of sources for information on WGEN.

“A number of land-grant universities are using it,” he said. “And, the Department of Landscape Architecture at Texas A&M University is using it in landscape design. We know two chemical companies are using it for environmental evaluation of their chemical products.”

WGEN has generated a substantial amount of overseas interest. Richardson said he has had inquiries and user reports from researchers and others in Belgium, Spain, Australia, Mexico, West Germany, East Germany, Italy, South Africa, Venezuela, Syria, Canada and Morocco.

Users of WGEN must supply certain information about their site, including rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures and solar radiation.

“There are about 60 numbers in all that you have to get for a site, but they’re all in the book on the model,” Richardson said.

He said he believes WGEN was the first computer model to put together weather data in this way.

Farmers might use the information from WGEN to make management decisions for their operations based on the amount of runoff and erosion, or even to calculate the probability of a new crop on a specific site, Richardson said.

The information compiled by Richardson and Wright for WGEN includes weather records for about 130 sites around the country, from Birmingham, Ala., to Cheyenne, Wyo.

“If we don’t already have the numbers for your site, you could pick a site that we have that’s closest to you,” Richardson said. “Or if you’re halfway between two cities that we have, you could take the average of their numbers.”

The maps and charts only encompass the United States, but that doesn’t mean users in other countries can’t benefit from WGEN, he added. “If you want to do the calculations for a site not on the map, there’s a program that will let you take real data from weather stations where you are and develop the numbers you need.”

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

Issued: August 10, 1990

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YEUTTER APPOINTS COTTON BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the appointment of one member and one alternate member to the Cotton Board, which administers a national cotton research and promotion program.

Appointed is Allan Anderson, with Bobby Sparks as his alternate, both of Harlingen, Texas. They will serve the remaining portion of three-year terms ending Dec. 31, 1991. The terms were left vacant by the resignation of board member Tommy Funk, also of Harlingen. Anderson was Funk's alternate.

The Cotton Board is composed of 20 producer-members and their alternates, plus one public member who serves without an alternate. Board members serve staggered three-year terms. All cotton-producing states are represented on the board, with the number of representatives from each state determined by the percentage of cotton that state produces.

The program's achievements include development of new fabrics and finishing processes, developing and delivering technological advances for textile manufacturers, and sponsoring generic advertising for cotton.

Voluntary assessments paid by U.S. cotton growers fund the program. In 1989, the board spent over \$24 million dollars on cotton research and promotion.

The board was authorized by the Cotton Research and Promotion Act of 1966 to increase consumption of American Upland cotton throughout the world.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the board for the secretary of agriculture and reviews its budget, plans and projects to see that it is operated according to law and in the public interest.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

U.S. DONATES CORN TO THE PHILIPPINES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate 100,000 metric tons of U.S. corn to the Philippines, according to Christopher Goldthwait, acting general sales manager of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$8.9-million donation will be sold by the Philippine government to private sector feed millers and livestock and poultry producers to produce feed. The proceeds will be used to provide food assistance to the needy and fund activities such as health and nutrition programs and programs to promote increased agricultural production. The supply period is fiscal year 1990.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to benefit needy people overseas. The program is carried out by the U.S. Agency for International Development, acting as the agent of CCC.

For further information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 382-9263.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

AFRICANIZED BEE VENOM: NO WORSE THAN DOMESTIC BEE

WASHINGTON—Contrary to some people's expectations, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist has found that Africanized honeybees contain less venom than European honeybees—the ones already in the United States—and the venom is not more potent.

What makes a difference is the larger number of stings by Africanized bees, Justin O. Schmidt said.

When Africanized honeybees reach the U.S. from northern Mexico, "people should steer clear of their nests. These bees are extremely defensive when their nests are threatened," said Schmidt, a honeybee expert for USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

They tend to be unpredictable—sometimes hundreds can be attacking at the same time. "European bees are relatively calm and typically only one or just a few bees at a time will sting," he said.

The chance of someone being severely injured by Africanized honeybees is far less than the chance of being hit by lightning, said Schmidt at ARS' Carl Hayden Bee Research Center, Tucson, Ariz.

Ralph A. Bram, who heads the agency's national bee research, said the northward migration of Africanized honeybees has halted temporarily about 150 miles south of the Texas-Mexican border.

"We expect they will move again once fall flowers start blooming and the bees begin collecting nectar," Bram said. When the bees cross the border depends on many factors, he added. These include weather and the number and vigor of Africanized colonies, as well as the availability of nectar and pollen sources.

Schmidt found venom from both bees was similar after studying more than 1,000 of each species.

He and Ned Egen, a chemist at the University of Arizona, compared the venom's protein patterns by isoelectric focusing—a technique sometimes used by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to link blood from a suspect to a crime scene.

Schmidt said he collected the Africanized honeybee venom in Costa Rica. He and University of Arizona allergist Michael J. Schumacher, M.D., found that a beekeeper's antibodies to European bee venom were "useful for neutralizing the damaging effects of Africanized honeybee venom." A person's immune system produces antibodies as a defense against foreign agents in the body.

"This laboratory test result is another indication of how similar the venoms are," said Schmidt.

Dennis Senft (415) 559-6068

Issued: August 13, 1990

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USDA ANNOUNCES REVISED PROPOSAL TO AMEND ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it will repropose regulations to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that cover the humane handling, care, transportation and treatment of dogs, cats and non-human primates.

According to James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the regulations are being repropose because of the large number of substantive issues identified in the many comments that were received when first proposed in March 1989.

“We received more than 10,000 comments on our original proposal,” Glosser said. “This reproposal takes these comments into consideration. Our primary concern continues to be the humane treatment of those animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act. We believe today’s reproposal will help improve the regulations.”

Federal animal welfare legislation, first passed in 1966, covered animal dealers who raised dogs and cats for research and laboratories conducting research on these mammals. In 1970, coverage was broadened to include most other warm-blooded animals used in research, exhibited or sold in the wholesale pet trade. A 1976 amendment extended coverage to include transportation of live animals. In 1985, Congress further amended the Act.

Comments on the revised proposal, which will be published in the Aug. 15 Federal Register, will be accepted if they are received on or before Oct. 1. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket No. 90-040 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, P.O. Box 1839, Hyattsville, Md., 20788.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Sybil Bowie (301) 436-7253

#

NEW LOW-FAT DAIRY TOPPING MADE FROM FROZEN CONCENTRATE

WASHINGTON—Low-cholesterol whipped topping for that favorite dessert soon may be made from frozen milk concentrate—just thaw, add flavorings and blend.

Invented by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist, the whipped-cream-like topping contains less than 2 milligrams of cholesterol per half-cup serving. Nearly all the butterfat is gone, replaced by approximately one-half to two grams of one or more vegetable oils low in saturated fat, such as soybean, corn or peanut oil.

Food technologist George N. Bookwalter of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service developed the topping. He earlier formulated a low-fat frozen concentrated milk product made from nonfat dry milk, water and

cholesterol-free oils. Working at ARS' Northern Regional Research Center at Peoria, Illinois, Bookwalter blended the frozen milk concentrate and flavorings to produce the topping.

The new topping can be made with artificial sweeteners and could be ideal for people who have dietary restrictions on milk fat, calories or cholesterol, but like to indulge in an occasional dessert, Bookwalter said.

The topping would be marketed as frozen concentrate that would require less space in home, restaurant and supermarket freezers than frozen and foamy non-dairy toppings, according to Bookwalter. He said a single cup of frozen concentrate could produce up to eight cups of whipped topping. In tests, the whipped topping held its foaminess for up to 24 hours.

"By combining just the right ratio of nonfat dry milk to water, we didn't have to use emulsifiers or homogenizers to keep the oil from separating," he said.

Restaurants might feature the topping on specialty desserts made with artificial sweetener and Oatrim, a low-cholesterol fat substitute made from soluble oat fiber. Scientists at the Northern Regional Research Center recently patented Oatrim, which contains cholesterol-fighting beta-glucan.

Bookwalter has applied for a patent on the whipped topping. At least one company is seeking a license to process and market the patented frozen milk concentrate.

Research on frozen milk concentrates began as scientists looked for a way to provide milk for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Transportation costs for the concentrated milk product will be less than for fluid milk, which is four times heavier.

The frozen milk concentrate, with its extended shelf life, also might increase sales of milk to some elderly people who shop less frequently for groceries.

Ben Hardin (309) 685-4011

Issued: August 14, 1990

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USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL RESULTS OF 1990 FARM PROGRAM SIGNUP

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—Producers have signed contracts enrolling 168.8 million acres of feed grains, wheat, upland and extra-long staple (ELS) cotton, and rice in the 1990 commodity price support and acreage reduction programs, according to a report issued today by the U.S. Department of Agricult

Twenty-six million of these acres will be idled and placed in a conserving use.

The acreage enrolled in 1990 programs represents 78 percent of the 216.6 million acres of total crop acreage bases established for these commodities.

The following table is a national summary of the final enrollment report.

	Effective Base	Enrolled Base	ACR*	0/92 50/92	Percent Enrolled
- - - - - (million acres) - - - - -					
Corn	82.6	64.6	6.2	3.9	78.3%
Sorghum	15.4	12.0	1.1	2.0	77.7%
Barley	11.9	8.2	.8	1.9	69.2%
Oats	7.5	.7	.03	.2	10.0%
Feed grains	117.4	85.6	8.1	7.9	72.9%
Wheat	80.5	66.8	2.2	4.8	82.9%
Cotton - upland	14.4	12.5	1.5	.4	86.9%
- ELS	.2	.04	.002	.0	23.3%
Rice	4.2	4.0	.8	.3	95.1%
Total	216.6	168.8	12.6	13.4	78.0%

*Acreage Conservation Reserve. Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Producers who participate in the annual commodity programs agree to reduce their plantings from the established farm acreage bases by at least 10 percent for corn, sorghum and barley, 5 percent for wheat, oats and

ELS cotton, 12.5 percent for upland cotton and 20 percent for rice.

Wheat producers who agreed to modify their contracts in order to plant increased acreages of wheat accounted for 19 million acres of the 66.8 million acres which were enrolled.

Printed copies of the tables show, by commodity and state, the number and percentage of farms and acreage signed up in the program can be obtained from the USDA, New Division-Room 403-A, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone: (202) 447-4026, ask for press release 1050-90.

Bruce Merkly (202) 447-8206

#

USDA ADOPTS "CITE" TEST FOR ALL ASPECTS OF ITS CATTLE BRUCELLOSIS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced adoption of the concentration immunoassay technology (CITE) test as an official test for brucellosis of all cattle and bison.

“Previously, we used the CITE test only on cattle that had been vaccinated for brucellosis,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “Now, we’ll use it to verify all blood samples that test positive during screening with the standard card test.”

Glosser said that the CITE test provides faster results because it can be processed on location instead of at a specialized laboratory. In addition, the CITE test is more accurate and should help avoid the unnecessary destruction of cattle and bison that have false-positive results to the card test.

A final rule on the adoption of the test was published in the Aug. 13 Federal Register. The rule will take effect Sept. 12.

Brucellosis, sometimes called “Bang’s disease,” causes abortions, reduced fertility and lower milk yields in cattle. Nationwide, cattle producers still incur production losses of more than \$15 million from brucellosis. Humans can be infected if they drink unpasteurized milk from infected animals or if they handle an aborted fetus.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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USDA INSTALLS NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR TRANSFER OF COTTON CLASSING DATA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—An advanced computer system is being installed in U.S. Department of Agriculture cotton classing offices to allow growers using the services to access results the moment cotton is classed.

The new system will allow authorized users to access the system by: (1) all data since the last transmission, (2) by bale number range, or (3) by classing date.

“The speed of electronic dissemination accounts for much of the system’s growing popularity,” said Dan Haley, administrator of USDA’S Agricultural Marketing Service. “Cotton markets can be very volatile, and the few days it takes to return a grower’s classification results by mail can affect profit margins when the market is moving rapidly,” he said.

The new computer system allows AMS to make the most cost-effective use of the agency’s classing personnel and equipment, resulting in substantial cost savings. “The agency offers electronic transfer of classing data through direct computer-to-computer links and through tapes and diskettes,” Haley said.

The first method links the agency’s and customers’ computers through telecommunications via existing phone services. In 1989, an estimated 294 cotton gins used this method to retrieve classing information for their grower customers on four million bales of cotton.

With the second method, tapes and diskettes provide data from the classing offices to customers on a daily basis. Data on approximately five million bales was transferred in this way during the 1989 season.

“The data on 9 million bales transferred electronically to cotton growers and their marketing agents represented almost three-quarters of the total 1989 crop,” Haley said.

Haley said another reason for the increasing popularity of electronic dissemination is the enhanced efficiency of data processing for customers. In the past, recipients of classing data had to employ data entry personnel to enter classing results into their computer systems. “Direct electronic transfer has resulted in a real cost savings,” Haley said.

“The new computer system has the capacity for further expansion and AMS plans to integrate new technologies as available to meet the needs of the cotton industry,” Haley said.

Further information about electronic dissemination of cotton classing data can be obtained from Elvis Morris, AMS, USDA, Cotton Division, 4841 Summer Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38122; telephone (901) 766-2921.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.31 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.38 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.31 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.16 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.22 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.75 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.73 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Aug. 21 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR MEXICO

WASHINGTON, August 14—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to Mexico during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn begins Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by

3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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THIRTY-TWO CHARGED IN MARYLAND WITH FOOD STAMP AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—Thirty-two Baltimore, Md., area residents were charged today with food stamp trafficking, theft, and distribution of narcotics, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Inspector General Leon Snead.

Thirteen of those charged were indicted by a federal grand jury in Baltimore on various counts of unauthorized possession and redemption of food stamps, distribution of narcotics and conspiracy. The remaining 19 were charged in the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City with a variety of counts of welfare and food stamp fraud, distribution of narcotics, theft and conspiracy.

Snead said the nine-month joint investigation was conducted by the Baltimore City Police Department and USDA's Office of Inspector General, and focused on identifying individuals and businesses illegally accepting food stamps in exchange for cash or narcotics and individuals involved in receiving food stamps fraudulently. Under federal law, the maximum penalty for unauthorized possession and acquisition of food stamps is five years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.

Store owners and others that were charged are Frederick Herd, 26; Linda Herd, 25; Linda Barnett, 40; Elaine Ohl, age unknown; Thomas Ohl, 42 and Cheste Dean, 42; all associated with Bizzy Bee Confectionery; John A. Regan, 35, owner and Lynn Bailey, 60; and Donald Moaney, 54, associates, Regan Meats; Ioannis Avgerinos, 34; Dorothy Avgerinos, 20; Francis Koranis, 23 and Foulia Gionopoulos, age unknown; all associated with Greek Village Bakery and Deli; Lefteris Tamaris, 51 and Eleni Tamaris, 53, both associated with Rafina Seafood and Produce; Mason Magid, age unknown, and Roland Jefferson, 40, both associated with Gertude Quality Meats; Clarence Hughes, age unknown, and Eddie Neal, age unknown, both associated with Ed's Daily Catch; Alvin Warren Williams, 42, associated with Oldtown Discount

Warehouse; Bay Van Nguyen, age unknown, associated with Bay Seafood; Yon Hui Lee, age unknown, associated with Park Pantry; Michelle Butler, 28, employee, Currency Exchange; Charles Rodgers, 48; Claxton Perkins, 30; Troy Braxton, 28; Mike Whitney, 25; Sheila Whitney, 25; Leonard Quinsa, age unknown; Raymond Smoot, 36; Sharon Bullock, 28, all of the Baltimore area; and James S. Taylor, age unknown, Reedville, Virginia.

Snead praised the cooperation received from the Baltimore City Police Department, and the offices of the United States Attorney and States Attorney stating that the charges “demonstrate the value of joint law enforcement efforts in combatting abuses of the Food Stamp Program.”

The cases are being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Breckinridge L. Willcox and States Attorney Stuart O. Simms.

David Dickson (202) 447-6701

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SIX ARRESTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR FOOD STAMP FRAUD AND DRUG VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—U.S. Department of Agriculture special agents and Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department officers late yesterday and today arrested six people for food stamp trafficking and drug-related violations, according to USDA’s Inspector General Leon Snead.

The arrests began yesterday evening when three individuals exchanged seven-and-a-half ounces of crack cocaine for \$40,000 in USDA food stamps with undercover USDA agents. Today, three District of Columbia Public Library employees were arrested after they traded \$4,000 in cash for \$8,000 in USDA food stamps with undercover USDA agents. A fourth individual, who participated in a previous food stamp trafficking transaction, was also arrested.

During the six-month investigation, those charged obtained illegally over \$93,000 in food stamps in exchange for over \$17,000 in cash, a semiautomatic pistol and quantities of crack cocaine. A total of \$48,000 in food stamps was recovered during arrests last night and today.

The maximum penalty for unauthorized possession and acquisition of food stamps is five years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.

Arrested yesterday were Joseph Day Henson, 62; Vivian Sue Davis, 51; and Charles Davis, 69, all of Washington, D.C. Arrested today were Pat Gorham, 27; Carrie Sampson, 37; and Bob Gorham, 29.

The arrests were the result of a joint investigation by the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department Narcotics Unit and USDA's Office of Inspector General.

"Clearly this operation reflects the value of cooperation between federal and local authorities in combatting criminal schemes used to abuse this beneficial program," said Snead.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Carol Fortine and Katherine Winfree.

David F. Dickson (202) 447-6701

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**THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table

White	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0
Light Amber	36.0
Amber	35.0
Nontable	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

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USDA STUDY AIMS TO PUT THE BITE ON CRICKETS

WASHINGTON—A microbial organism being evaluated by agricultural scientists in south-eastern Idaho shows promise as a possible natural alternative to synthetic pesticides in helping control Mormon crickets in the United States, said a U.S. Department of Agriculture official.

Gary Cunningham, director of the Grasshopper Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project coordinated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that studies on the insect pathogen *Vairimorpha* show it can infect all life stages of the cricket except the egg. That capability could make it a useful tool in IPM efforts to manage population densities of this cricket, which destroys range and crop foliage.

"The focus of the Grasshopper IPM project is to develop, evaluate and implement grasshopper and Mormon cricket management techniques that maintain populations below economically damaging levels, while remaining cost effective and environmentally acceptable," Cunningham said. Control efforts utilizing this pathogen could be employed instead of chemical pesticides in environmentally sensitive areas.

John E. Henry and Jerome A. Onsager of USDA's Agricultural Research Service Rangeland Insect Laboratory, Bozeman, Mont., are working with control strategies that incorporate *Vairimorpha*. Their research evaluates the influence of the pathogen on ovary development and egg deposition in female crickets. It also compares *Vairimorpha*'s success when delivered via bait formulation on wheat bran and via injection into uninfected crickets.

Henry believes that *Vairimorpha* will work well in managing cricket densities because it easily infects crickets in the field, persists over many months, and strongly suppresses reproduction of the exposed crickets that are not killed outright.

Vairimorpha-caused infection can be transmitted to healthy crickets readily when they come into contact with the frass (waste products) of infected crickets, via cannibalism and, possibly, through copulation. An especially appealing feature of *Vairimorpha* is its host specificity—it should cause no harm to insects other than Mormon crickets.

Currently, the Grasshopper IPM Project is integrating this biological agent into a research-demonstration study in the sand dune area of Freemont and Clark counties of southeastern Idaho. Funding for the

Vairimorpha study is provided by the Idaho state office of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

According to Henry, Mormon crickets (*Anabrus simplex*) are flightless, long-horned grasshoppers. Their common name originated in the mid-1800's, when high populations threatened the crops of Mormon settlers in the Great Salt Lake Basin. These insects usually travel in large bands and have been known to migrate up to a mile a day, consuming most of the forage in their path.

The Grasshopper IPM Project is a cooperative effort of federal, state and private institutions, organized to develop management and control methods for grasshoppers and Mormon crickets that infest rangelands. The IPM approach uses a carefully selected combination of proven control techniques that are suited for each particular situation.

Doug Hendrix (208) 334-9320

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